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Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

June 13, 2008

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Colonel joins joint base team

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The boxes were already packed and the movers were ready to go as Col. Shane Hershman, former 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander, and his family prepared for the move to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

But before departing on the 3,000 mile cross-country move, Colonel Hershman got the call from Air Mobility Command that he was staying put to take over a newly created position as the head of the Office of Primary Responsibility for Joint Base Lewis/McChord.

"It was completely unexpected, but I'm anxious for the challenge," Colonel Hershman said.

The colonel will head up a group that will work with the Army to set a course to make sure the Air Force's mission will not be impacted as the joint base process moves forward, he said.

"We want to make sure the transi-

tion is smooth for the Airmen, their families and everyone else who works on the base," Colonel Hershman said.

Colonel Hershman was chosen for the position because he is familiar with the mission, how the base operates and how each perceived change may impact the mission, he said.

"We're going to have to work through any issues that come up," Colonel Hershman said. "It's a big task, but it is doable. McChord and Fort Lewis have found common ground before and we just have to keep working to do it again."

One of Colonel Hershman's first matters of business will be attending a Department of Defense-sponsored joint basing conference at Fort Lewis on June 21. The conference will touch on how other bases have addressed any issues that have come up.

"There is no cookie cutter approach for each joint base situation," he said. "We're going to listen and see how other bases are working through their issues."



Photo by Abner Guzman

Mail call

Airmen 1st Class Oldanges Skebong and Sherilyn Pianar, both 62nd Communications Squadron, sort mail Friday in the base information transfer system office. This photo was shot as part of Air Mobility Command's 2400 Zulu photo shoot week, which ran June 2-8. The week was created to highlight a 24-hour day in AMC and emphasize the array of missions and people within the command. The resulting photos will be posted on a special section of the AMC Web page for download by both internal and external audiences.

Secretary Gates brings call for excellence to AMC Airmen

By

Capt. Heather Kekic
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AFB, Ill. — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates spoke to an audience of more than 400 Airmen here Tuesday to personally deliver his message that the Air Force must apply more rigor to its responsibilities, particularly with nuclear weapons.

The secretary's visit came as a result of his decision to ask the Secretary of the Air Force, Michael W. Wynn and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General T. Michael Moseley, to resign June 5.

Scott Air Force Base, Ill., the home of Air Mobility Command, was selected as one of three locations for Gates to address Airmen because AMC's tanker refueling aircraft are included in nuclear-capable bombers' mission.

Gates said he came to speak to Airmen for three reasons: first, to explain in person and in more detail the reasons behind his decision to ask for the resignations of the top

Air Force leaders; second, to express his thanks to Air Force men and women for their service; and third, to engage Airmen at every level and hear directly what's on their minds.

Gates said he believed the Air Force needed a change of leadership to provide a 'new perspective' and to underscore the importance of accountability in dealing with serious problems.

His decision came following an investigation into two incidents involving nuclear weapons. Earlier this year four fusing devices for ballistic missile nuclear warheads were accidentally shipped to Taiwan. Last August, a B-52 mistakenly armed with six nuclear-tipped cruise missiles flew from North Dakota to Louisiana.

Overall, Gates explained that the Air Force has "drifted from its most critical mission" and it "required intervention." The mission requires tremendous responsibility — one that has "no room for error or second chances," he said.

Following his explanation on the resignations, Gates took the oppor-

tunity to reiterate his strong support of America's Airmen, and to thank them for their service in the ongoing Global War on Terror.

"Every day Airmen are doing amazing things while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan," Gates said. The Air Force's precise air support has saved countless lives and made it harder for the enemy to operate. He highlighted the fact that Air Mobility Command has airlifted millions of passengers and nearly three million tons of cargo since September 11, 2001.

"I value everything you're doing," Gates said. "I am profoundly grateful you are overhead."

Meanwhile, General Arthur J. Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander, in response to the SECAF and CSAF resignations, issued a memorandum addressed to all AMC personnel calling for a return to basics.

"Although the Secretary of Defense expressed particular disappointment in the Air Force's stewardship of nuclear weapons and equipment, his concerns must be a wake-up call for all Airmen," the

memorandum states.

"There are a number of lessons we, as Air Mobility Airmen, must learn from this sad and unfortunate episode in our Air Force's history," says General Lichte. "Unless we turn this occasion into an opportunity to improve ourselves, our mission focus, and our service to our nation, we risk continuing the failures that brought us to this difficult moment."

"We must continue to focus on doing our jobs right. There are no acceptable shortcuts; excellence depends on each Airman doing his or her job by the book."

General Lichte also wrote that, when it comes to returning to basics, it means, "leaders must lead." Additionally, leaders must accept responsibility and hold themselves accountable.

Secretary Gates also visited the headquarters of Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va., and Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo., the other Air Force major commands with key roles in the nation's nuclear weapon mission.

Weekend Weather

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



Hi: 61
Low: 46



Hi: 63
Low: 47

**Happy
Father's
Day!**

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday
Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Air Expo 2008 Countdown

visit www.mcchordairexpo.com

36 days

Don't miss it ... Redesignation ceremony

The 62nd Medical Group will host a redesignation ceremony at 2:30 p.m. June 20 in front of the Medical Group Clinic. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will move to Hangar 9.

SECAF, CSAF resignations — a call to return to basics

By
Gen. Arthur Lichte
Air Mobility Command commander

Last week, our Air Force and Nation learned that our Secretary and Chief of Staff will soon step down from their leadership posts. In resigning, they accepted responsibility and held themselves accountable for recent Air Force mission failures. In accepting their resignations, the Secretary of Defense praised Secretary Wynne's and General Moseley's dedication, courage and devoted service to our Nation. He also pointed out, though, that we have a lot of work to do to return the Air Force to the standards of excellence for which we have long been known and respected.

There are a number of lessons we, as Air Mobility Airmen, must learn from this sad and unfortunate episode in our Air Force's history. Unless we turn this occasion into an opportunity to improve ourselves, our mission focus and our service to our Nation, we risk continuing the failures that brought us to this difficult moment.

We, the Air Force, failed our Secretary and Chief. By taking our eye off the ball — by failing to focus on our core missions — we allowed some very embarrassing events to occur. Although the Secretary of Defense expressed particular disappointment in the Air Force's stewardship of nuclear weapons and equipment, his concerns must be a wake-up call to all Airmen. I am extremely proud of all AMC Airmen — active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and civilians and the amazing and outstanding work you do; however, we can't afford to rest on our laurels and become complacent. We must continue to focus on doing our jobs right. There are no acceptable shortcuts; excellence depends on each Airman doing his or her job by the book.

We need to return to basics. Returning to basics means leaders must lead. The Secretary and Chief have given us a final example of what it means to be a leader: Leaders accept responsibility for the mission and the Airmen who perform it. Leaders hold themselves and their subordinates accountable for actions that detract from our mission. The acronym, FIDO — "fix it and drive on"— should become part of every Airman's vocabulary. If you see a problem and

can fix it, do so. If the problem is beyond your expertise or authority, report it to your supervisor, let him or her lead, and then be the best wingman you can be. Ultimately, if you're a leader whether an officer, senior NCO, NCO or civilian — your most important objective is to foster a culture in which all Airmen feel responsible for themselves, their wingmen and their mission.

We arrived at this difficult moment because we failed to achieve that objective.

Returning to basics also means examining all aspects of our missions and resolving to do them better. The aircraft maintainer who methodically applies tech orders returns to basics.

The flying crewmember who follows checklists returns to basics. Airmen who provide customer service return to basics when they put the customer's concerns ahead of their own. Whatever our job, we know the standards of excellence we're expected to achieve. The Secretary and Chief invested a lot of time, energy and resources to establish AFSSO 21 as one key way of making our Air Force better. As our final salute to them, I challenge all AMC Airmen to look every day for opportunities to improve our Air Force.

Finally, we need to restore pride in our Air Force. We can be proud of our Secretary's and Chief's legacy. We would honor that legacy by focusing in the days ahead on the sacred trust our Nation has placed in us. As our Airman's Creed reminds us, we "have answered our Nation's call." That call demands we remain "faithful to a proud heritage, a tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor." There is no room in that call for feeling sorry for ourselves. There is no room in that call for becoming defensive and blaming others for our problems. Our comrades in arms deployed worldwide and in harm's way rely on AMC to provide professional, timely and precise global airlift, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation. There is no room in our mission for anything less than our total commitment. We

"There is no room in our mission for anything less than our total commitment. We need to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and move out with renewed resolve and pride."

— Gen. Arthur Lichte



need to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and move out with renewed resolve and pride. We owe it to ourselves; we owe it to our Nation.

On Tuesday, Secretary Gates nominated Mr. Michael Donley and Gen. Norton Schwartz as our next Secretary and Chief. We look forward to their confirmation and pledge our support as they lead our Air Force.

In his resignation statement, General Moseley said, "the Air Force is bigger than one Airman." He's right; the Air Force is a team. However, without each Airman working with his or her fellow Airman to achieve our common goals, the Air Force is not as big, effective or proud as it can be. The Air Force is bigger than one Airman, but we in AMC know that the departure of Secretary Wynne and General Moseley leaves big gaps in our formation. It's up to us to help Mr. Donley and General Schwartz fill them. We can do it, but only if we become better leaders and wingmen ourselves.

Professionals of the week

Staff Sgt. Candi Benda

Duty title:
Protocol specialist

Duty section:
Protocol

Hometown:
Westminister, Colo.

Why she's super:

Sergeant Benda's professionalism and attention to detail ensures Team McChord is able to flawlessly host countless high-visibility events using developed protocol procedures. Since starting her job in Protocol four months ago, she has taken the reigns on more than 15 protocol events, ranging from distinguished visitor visits to Change of Command ceremonies and Airman Leadership School graduations. In May, she served as the primary Protocol point of contact for the AMC commander visit. In addition to the round-the-clock protocol mission, she has volunteered with the Fisher House Dinner at Fort Lewis, as well as helped renovate the McChord Child Development Center playground. She is presently enrolled at Pierce College taking 10 credit hours.



Tech. Sgt. Julie Johnson

Duty title:
Noncommissioned officer in charge of the Wing Command Section

Duty section:
Wing Staff

Hometown:
Canby, Ore.

Why she's tops:

Sergeant Johnson hit the ground running in the Wing Command Section last July, arriving just in time for Rodeo. Drawing from her Traffic Management career field background, she has excelled at her primary duty of expertly logging and tracking all correspondence coming into the command section. Additionally, she is responsible for coordinating with all wing and squadron agencies to ensure weekly stand-up meetings and daily wing leadership briefings are up to date and run smoothly. In her off-duty time, she has volunteered with the Boy Scouts and supported a 5/6 Club drive to collect food for the Fisher House at Fort Lewis.



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Base security requires more than guns, guards

By

William Bravo

Wing Antiterrorism Office

The Department of Defense has many tools it uses in furthering its antiterrorism programs. Some have catchy titles such as the "TSWG" or Technical Systems Working Group; others sound more grand, such as the Force Protection Corporate Structure. There are dozens of councils, boards and working groups in Air Mobility Command alone that seek to guide and implement protective programs. However, we have the best antiterrorism and security tool right here on the base: the community. The key to using this tool is fostering a culture of security awareness where every Airman, employee and family member aids in the protection of the community and organization.

Security programs, if done well, are an investment in the quality of life rather than an expense. The base can post more guards and buy the best technology, but the overall effect doesn't likely match the capability it gains when everyone is a stakeholder in protecting each other, the base's assets and missions. Guards, guns

and gizmos can't economically provide the level of protection we seek. The quickest and most cost-effective way to improve security in a community or organization is through education and awareness. Base officials spend millions of dollars and thousands of hours preparing for crisis management – the actions in responding to a threat, incident or crime. They also train and prepare for consequence management – recovering from an incident. Crisis and consequence management are largely reactive and after the fact. Security and antiterrorism awareness are proactive measures that can prevent a crime or incident, or should one occur, hasten and improve the base's response. They affect all aspects and phases of protective programs.

Crime — including terrorism — often relies on three elements: motivation to commit the act, opportunity and the ability. Security awareness affects all of these to keep everyone safer. An organization that promotes vigilance will close the window of opportunity for an adversary by detecting them faster and possibly deterring the act from occurring. An alert and educated organization like-

wise erodes an adversary's capability. Security awareness complicates the planning and execution cycles in criminal and terrorist acts; it simply makes all aspects of the crime or act harder. The base's response is faster and decision-making is more accurate when everyone pulls together to protect each other. Base officials get greater freedom of movement by focusing on the right things and thereby increasing an adversary or criminal's margin of error – positively influencing the quality of life by deterring or limiting many ill events. This deterrent factor is a reflection of acting on the motivation for committing an adverse act. With better information and greater focus provided by an alert community, base officials can carefully select tactics and wisely commit resources for everyone's safety and security.

Leveraging the strength of the community through awareness and education includes weaving a security culture through all aspects of our community. Increasing vigilance where anyone reports or challenges suspicious events and everyone is on guard for benefit the community is vitally important. This entails knowledge of the threat, appreciating the

risk, and a familiarity with contacts for reporting an event or incident. On this installation, the thousand eyes and ears in the community is much more powerful than a few hundred if we were to rely on security forces alone. Education is based on increasing knowledge of key aspects of the base's protective programs. By embracing many functional areas, base officials will have more holistic protection. Including security, crime prevention, antiterrorism, information assurance, force medical protection and safety in the educational and awareness efforts will solidly make the community safer and more secure. Security is about our quality of life.

In the end, security and safety relies less on expensive weapons systems and complex operating procedures and more upon the "buddy system" applied on large scale where everyone is looking out for everyone else. It is important to report all suspicious activities, whether it occurred on or off the installation.

The bottom line is that if it looks suspicious, then it is. Report it to the 62nd Security Forces Squadron or the Office of Special Investigations immediately!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

Meeting of the minds

Air Mobility Command Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Barron Jr. talks with Airmen June 5 after eating breakfast at the Olympic Dining Facility. The event was part of Chief Barron's routine base visit. He also spoke with Airmen at Airmen Leadership School, the First Term Airman's Center and the base dorms.



Tainted tomatoes removed

By

Capt. Bethany Druckenmiller
62nd Medical Operations Squadron,
chief of public health

The Food and Drug Administration has issued a warning to consumers nationwide that a salmonellosis outbreak has been linked to consumption of certain raw red plum, red Roma, and red round tomatoes, and products containing these raw, red tomatoes.

Since mid-April, there have been 145 reported cases of salmonellosis nationwide, including at least 23 hospitalizations. This is a marked increase from the same period 2007, when only three cases were reported. Symptoms of Salmonellosis include fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, the organism can get into the bloodstream and produce more severe illnesses.

States reporting illnesses linked to the outbreak include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. One confirmed illness was reporting in Washington. No suspected or confirmed cases among active duty personnel, dependents and retirees have been reported to McChord Public Health.

FDA recommends that consumers

not eat raw red Roma, raw red plum, raw red round tomatoes, or products that contain these types of raw red tomatoes unless the tomatoes were grown and harvested in the following areas: Arkansas, California, Georgia, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Israel, Netherlands, and Puerto Rico. If consumers are unsure of where tomatoes are grown or harvested, they are encouraged to contact the store where the tomato purchase was made.

The FDA's recommendation does not apply to the following tomatoes from any source: cherry, grape, and tomatoes sold with the vine still attached. Tomatoes of all varieties grown at home are also considered safe.

McChord Public Health has ensured that all suspected tomatoes have been removed from sale and consumption at all base food facilities, including the Commissary. They advise to not consume any of the implicated tomatoes, and either discard or contact the retail outlet where they were purchased for a possible refund. Anyone who is experiencing the symptoms mentioned above is urged to seek immediate medical care and inform your provider if you consumed tomatoes.

For more information about this topic, visit the FDA at www.fda.gov or the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov.



Courtesy photo

Service with a smile

From left, Lt. Col. Eric Payne, 62nd Mission Support Group; Chief Master Sgt. Alvin Thomas, 62nd Airlift Wing; and Lt. Col. Mark McCloud, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron commander, serve food at the Deployed Spouses Dinner June 3 at the Chapel Support Center. More than 200 people attended the event.

Visit www.af.mil



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

AFGHANISTAN — Senior Airman Stephen Cook shakes hands with first lady Laura Bush during her recent visit to Bagram Air Base. Airman Cook is a medical technician deployed from the 62nd Medical Operations Squadron.



Courtesy photo

AFGHANISTAN — Master Sgt. Ralph Chavez, 62nd Contracting Squadron, poses at a job site at Forward Operating Base Sharana, where he is the superintendent and chief of construction with the joint contracting office. The office supports nearly 3,000 U.S. Soldiers on site. The FOB, which was stood up in April, is being established as the new logistical supply center for the eastern portion of Afghanistan.



Air Force charts new course for 2009 force shaping

By

Staff Sgt. Monique Randolph
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Air Force officials here currently are deciding how to carry out force shaping plans in the coming year following an announcement by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates Monday to halt personnel cuts.

Active-duty end strength was projected to decrease from 328,600 to 316,600 by the end of fiscal 2009.

Stating his desire to ease the burden reduced staffing has created for some Airmen and their families, Secretary Gates told Airmen at

Langley Air Force Base, Va., he intends “immediately to stop further reductions in Air Force personnel.”

“This is good news for our Airmen,” said Col. Chuck Armentrout, chief of the military force policy division at the Pentagon. “We’ll have the resources we need to carry out the mission requirements of the required force.”

The halting of force reductions does not mean those officers and enlisted members already in the pipeline to separate will be required to stay, Colonel Armentrout said.

“We’re not talking large numbers here,” he said. “We’re talking about staying where we are [in terms of personnel numbers] for 2009, and then increasing slightly to 330,000 in

2010.”

While force reductions will be halted, other force shaping measures are still necessary to balance the force, Colonel Armentrout said.

The first step for Air Force manpower and personnel is to identify the skills needed in the increase to 330,000. Simultaneously, the Air Force will be focusing on ensuring Airmen who are in overage specialties are retrained into shortage career fields.

Officials are also looking at the possibility of initiating a cross-flow program for junior officers — beginning with a small test group — to explore the possibility of retraining officers currently in overage career fields.

The personnel increases that do take place will be targeted toward new and emerging missions, and high-demand areas,” said Colonel Armentrout.

“Obviously, there will be no reduction in force, voluntary separation pay or selective early retirement boards for 2009, but we will continue to shape the force using other force shaping tools already in place,” he said. “We’ll continue programs to retain people in the ‘in-demand’ skills, retrain when possible and target accessions toward those skills.”

Secretary Gates’ announcement came just earlier this week, but “as specifics become clearer, we’ll have a better site picture [of how we’ll proceed],” Colonel Armentrout said.

0-0-1-3



The medical standard is one drink for women or two drinks for men if a daily drinker.

For periodic drinking, the standard is to keep the blood alcohol level or blood alcohol content under 0.05.

*Use personal risk management
Use situational awareness
Use your wingman
Use a friend*

**0 Drinks under age 21
0 DUI's
Max 1 drink per hour
Max 3 drinks in one night**

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



Vehicle, motorcycle safety paramount during 101 Critical Days of Summer

BY
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

According to 2005 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the leading cause of death for young adults ages 21-34 was motor vehicle traffic crashes, which claimed the lives of 11,634 people.

Those numbers reflect an equally dangerous trend in the Air Force. During the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign last year, Air Force-wide 14 of 19 fatalities were from traffic or vehicle-related accidents, and six of those fatalities involved motorcycles.

McChord has had no fatalities since 2001, according to Ken Heath, 62nd Airlift Wing chief of ground safety.

"We've been lucky," he said.

That being said, McChord safety officials are asking Airmen to obey the rules of the road and the rules on base. Driving without a seatbelt and talking on a cell phone without a hands-free device violate Department of Defense policy.

Airmen must also remember that on July 1 the Washington state law prohibiting cell phone use while driving takes effect, Mr. Heath said. The violation is ticketable as a secondary offense.

Motorcycle riders must also remember to wear the proper motorcycle safety equipment.

McChord's 101 Critical Days of Summer Web site has the following tips for proper motorcycle protective gear, which must be worn by all personnel on base and by military personnel off base as well.

Helmet: Operator and any passenger must wear a protective helmet. Helmets must meet, as a minimum, Department of Transportation standards and be properly worn and fastened. Helmets may also meet higher standards such as the Snell Memorial Foundation or the

American National Standards Institute.

Eye protection: Operator and any passenger must wear impact resistant goggles or wear a full-face shield on their helmet. Sunglasses or prescription glasses are not authorized as a substitute for proper eye protection. Goggles or a full-face shield are not required for the operator if the motorcycle is equipped with a windshield that is equal in height to, or above the top of the helmet of the properly upright seated operator.

Outer garment: Operator and any passenger must wear long trousers and a long sleeved shirt or jacket. During daylight hours, the outer upper garment will be brightly colored and contrasting, meaning colors that enhance the rider's visibility such as orange, lime green, yellow, red or white. At night, a reflective vest or reflective jacket is required. Outer upper garment will be clearly visible and not covered. Backpacks are allowed, but if worn, must meet the same brightly colored/contrasting/reflective requirements as the outer upper garment. Reflective belts do not meet the visibility requirements for either day or night. In uniform, a reflective vest must be worn to meet the visibility requirements for day or night. Long sleeves shirts or jackets require the sleeves be rolled down. No short pants are allowed.

Gloves: Operator must wear full-fingered motorcycle gloves or mittens.

Sturdy footwear: Operator and any passenger are highly encouraged to wear sturdy footwear. Sturdy footwear is described as high enough to protect the ankle and soles with traction. Open-toed shoes or sandals are not acceptable footwear.

Bicyclists who ride on base are also required to follow the same rules of the road as drivers.



File photo by Abner Guman

Staff Sgt. Shawn Delang, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, maneuvers his Kawasaki Ninja ZX-6R-636 through a series of cones last year during a sport bike class here. A basic rider course and experienced rider course are now taught at Fort Lewis via a contract with Puget Sound Safety. It is free to military and DOD civilian employees.



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Team McChord members are reminded to buckle up - it's the law!



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Airman 1st Class Leanne Gomme, 62nd Mission Support Group, demonstrates the only safe and legal way to talk on a cell phone while driving, according to Department of Defense policy.



Courtesy photo

An Airman stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., was driving this car when he was involved in a fatal accident. The vehicle serves as a reminder for all Airmen to drive safely.

McChord Airmen square off against Tacoma Tide

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

There is no shortage of soccer talent in the Air Force ranks, and a team of Airmen here are determined to prove it to the local soccer community.

Along with four players from Fort Lewis, a team comprised of McChord Airmen will take on the Tacoma Tide in an exhibition match set for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Curtis High School Stadium in University Place. The Tide is a member of the United Soccer Leagues Premier Development League, currently the top level men's amateur competition in the United States.

The game was organized to help McChord and Fort Lewis bond with the local community and show players and fans the kind of teamwork, commitment and dedication Airmen and Soldiers put forth on a daily basis, said event co-organizer James Royston, 62nd Maintenance Squadron.

The McChord team was hand-picked by Royston and Shane Lawrence, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"We just watched some of the other intramural soccer games and did some scouting," said Lawrence, who grew up playing soccer in England and played for an Olympic development program after moving to the U.S. at the age of 16. "Everybody we talked to about playing the exhibition game was very excited. They're pretty pumped."

While the Tide has younger players and spends several hours a day practicing, the McChord team has a wealth of soccer experience, including several players that played collegiate soccer at the Air Force



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Mark Robertson, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, winds up for a kick during a soccer game at the 2008 Armed Forces Soccer Championship Tournament Jan. 31 through Feb. 5 at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C. Robertson is just one of several All-Air Force team members on the McChord team set to play an exhibition match against the Tacoma Tide at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Curtis High School Stadium.

Academy and with the All-Air Force or All-Army traveling teams.

"We've all played together and against each other, so we're all essentially all on the same page," said Royston, who played NAIA college soccer and was a varsity assistant coach at Spanaway Lake High School.

That familiarity and experience will come in handy against a Tide team that hasn't lost a game at

home since 2006.

"It's not always about age and youth," Lawrence said. "We've got the experience ... we know where to be on the field."

Although Lawrence admits it might take the McChord team some time to gel early on in the match, the key is going to be controlling the tempo of the game.

"We're going to want to slow it down and try to tire them out," he

said. "We'd also like to put away a couple of goals before they do."

The exhibition match against the Tide is the first of several local matches the team has planned for the year, Lawrence said.

Admission for the match is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. The price for military members is \$7 for adults and \$3 for students. For more information on the Tacoma Tide, visit www.tacomafc.com.

McChord All-Stars vs. Tacoma Tide, 7 p.m. Tuesday at Curtis High School



Airmen conquer local Rainier-to-Ruston race

By

Master Sgt. Bill Baker
62nd Mission Support Squadron

(Master Sgt. Bill Baker, 62nd Mission Support Squadron, recently competed in the Rainier-to-Ruston race. This is a first-person account of his experience.)

It started innocently enough.

"Hey Shirt! What did you do this weekend?" they asked.

"I ran nine of 51 miles with my six-person team in the Rainier-to-Ruston Rail-Trail Relay Marathon," I replied. That answer prompted a litany of other questions. "What was it like?" "Were you tired?" "Are you nuts?" "Would you do it again?"

My answers were simple: awesome, exhausted, of course and most definitely!

The R2R is in its sixth year and has exploded from a paltry 14 runners and 13 walkers in the beginning to more than 250 contestants now. Many run the marathon in teams of four or six, but there are those — the ultras — who run the entire 51 miles in roughly nine hours. The route starts from Mt. Rainier National Forest and takes a northwesterly route through several small towns and finally, Tacoma. Although the majority of the

Photo by Sheryl Swory



Esteban Granados, 62nd Mission Support Squadron, runs one leg of the June 7 Rainier-to-Ruston race. A team of 12 McChord Airmen finished first and second in the military categories.

run is on a developed paved trail or road, about 12 miles are run in completely undeveloped, boulder jumping, puddle swimming, dog chased, and stinging nettled back country. It was awesome!

I share this with you because 12 of our McChord Airmen from the future 62nd Force Support Squadron took part in what many would call an insane idea. Alesandra Morgan and David Swory from the 62nd Mission Support Squadron have recruited and trained teams for the last two

McChord team members

Christopher Lavallee (SVS)
Todd Ladd (MSS)
William Parker (SVS)
Alesandra Morgan (MSS)
Bill Baker (MSS)
David Swory (MSS)
Shannon Lewis (AW)
Jason Dumaliang (MSS)
Steven Deyne (MSS)
Justin Tyler (MSS)
Esteban Granados (MSS)
Brandon Angles (Dependent)
Cadet Jeff Sweet

years. Last year, they fielded a team of six, trained for about two months and finished in over eight hours. This challenge drew interest from even more Airmen, including myself, over the past year.

"This year, we wanted to train longer to get us into better shape to break eight hours," Swory said. Heat, along

with unfamiliarity with the routes last year was a huge factor in the desire to do better this year, he said.

This year the group from the 62nd AW, "Blood, Guts & Paper Cuts," had two teams finish the entire 51 miles in six hours, 47 minutes and seven hours, 22 minutes, respectively, to take the coveted Gold and Silver Spikes for winning first and second in the military categories.



Patriot Express to begin new schedule in July

By
AMC Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Beginning July 9, the U.S. military's chartered commercial air service, also known as Patriot Express, will begin regular B-747 bi-weekly round-trip service from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Wash., to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa and Yokota AB, Japan.

After ATA Airlines filed for bankruptcy and ceased operations in April, a gap existed in the Patriot Express service in the Pacific. Shortly after, Northwest Airlines took up the regular weekly missions to make up for the shortfall, since ATA and Northwest were under contract through a team arrangement with Federal Express.

Based on Northwest Airlines' available resources to support the

needs of the military, the airline will be able to upgrade from an A330 aircraft to a larger B-747. Since this upgrade will add more space, the Patriot Express flights will run on a bi-weekly basis.

"The aircraft upgrade adds about 100 more seats to each flight for every other week until the end of August," said Larry Lorentzen, an air transportation analyst with U.S. Transportation Command's directorate of operations and plans.

Lorentzen also said that direct negotiations with the airlines provided another benefit to travelers with extra travel requirements.

"Northwest Airlines has increased pet spaces to 24 per mission to accommodate passengers who have reservation commitments," said Lorentzen.

The 18th Air Force Tanker Airlift Control Center here has set up a new schedule with the airlines, which is available through GATES,



Photo courtesy Kadena Air Base Public Affairs

Passengers from Los Angeles, Seattle and Osan Air Base, South Korea, debark the Patriot Express at Kadena Air Base recently. Beginning July 9, the Patriot Express will begin regular B-747 bi-weekly round-trip service from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Wash., to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa and Yokota AB, Japan.

the Global Air Transportation Execution System.

Meanwhile, USTRANSCOM contracting officials are continuing to

work with the Federal Express team to set up a Patriot Express schedule for travel when the current contract ends.



36th Rescue Flight crew saves lost woman

By

Airman 1st Class Joshua Chapman
92nd Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — The Kittitas County Sheriff's Department requested assistance from the Air Force Tuesday morning after ground teams, K-9 units and aircraft were unable to locate a missing woman who had left her home 3 a.m. Monday.

A five-man UH-1N Huey helicopter crew from the 36th Rescue Flight here responded to an emergency call from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., to search for a 44-year-old woman reported lost by her husband in Ellensburg, Wash. The rescue crew was dispatched from Fairchild at around 8 a.m. the following morn-

ing.

The crew was led by Maj. Daniel Nielsen, 36th RQF director of operations and aircraft commander for the mission. The major was accompanied by 1st Lt. James Outland, pilot; Master Sgt. Patrick Hunt, independent-duty medical technician paramedic; Tech. Sgt. Matt Ryplewski, flight engineer; and Chaz Burton, crew chief.

Upon arriving at Bowers Field in Ellensburg, the crew refueled the helicopter and quickly returned to the skies. At around 10:15 a.m. they were in the area of concern and ardently searching for the lost woman.

"When we arrived into the area, we were surrounded by clouds. The ceiling was as low as 500 feet, and visibility was limited to about two miles," said Lieutenant Outland. "With conditions like that, we weren't sure that we would be able to find her."

But the crew did find her. About two hours after beginning their search, just as the clouds began to lift, the Airmen discovered the woman walking along a high ridge-line, three miles from her home.

"We weren't expecting that she would be in an area so high up," said Sergeant Hunt. "But we had a hunch, we went with it, and we found her."

The crew landed the helicopter on a rural road near the woman's location. Sergeant Hunt was first to assist. "The woman was under-dressed; she wasn't wearing pants or shoes," he said. "She was suffering from mild hypothermia. Her feet were noticeably injured, and several toes appeared to be fractured."

Sergeant Hunt removed his flight jacket, placed it over the woman, and brought her back to the helicopter where she was given a snack and bottled water. The crew

left the scene shortly thereafter, and headed back to Bowers Field, where an ambulance met the crew and transferred the woman to a local hospital for care.

The woman's husband reported he was very grateful to all those who participated in the search efforts. "We owe a thanks that can never be repaid to the professionals involved in the search from Kittitas County and throughout the state," he was quoted as saying in a press release.

"We train tirelessly, so to experience our training translate into a successful mission like this is very rewarding," said Major Nielsen.

This was rescue number 624 for the 36th RQF.

The unit falls under Air Education and Training Command's 336th Training Group and is part of the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape School here.



Air Force Marathon

The 12th annual United States Air Force Marathon is Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH. Air Mobility Command will again sponsor a team comprised of both male and female runners representing various age groups who compete in the full marathon. Team members will be selected based upon submitted AF Form 303. The completed forms should be submitted through your base Fitness Center by July 16. Those selected will be notified by AMC and placed on Permissive TDY for the marathon.

In addition to the official AMC competitive team, all others interested in competing in the Air Force Marathon are encouraged to do so at their own expense. Other events include a wheelchair marathon, half marathon, individual 10K and team 10K. In addition, a 5K race is Sept. 19 at Wright State University.

Please contact the Fitness Center for additional Air Force Marathon information.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is from 9 a.m. to noon June 23-27 at the Chapel Support Center. The program is for all children from preschool to fifth grade. To register, visit the Chapel Support Center. Volunteers are still needed to help with the program. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to call Robbin Large or Karen

Lynch at 982-5556.

Steam plant shutdown

The base central steam plant will be shut down on Saturday and Sunday. The shutdown will start at 1 a.m. on Saturday and will be back on at 6 p.m. on Sunday. The following facilities served with steam heat, steam-heated domestic hot water and/or process steam will be affected: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 22, 100, 160, 180, 181, 301, 304, 308, 315, 328, 341, 423, 546, 565, 566, 567, 572, 574, 707, 708, 710, 717, 726, 729, 735, 737, 738, 742, 745, 746, 757, 774, 778, 1119, 1120, 1122, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1155, 1156, 1160, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1169, 1170, 1174, 1175, 1178, 1179, 1183, 1405, 1419 and 1422. Hot water should be available for most of the day on Saturday. Also, limited shower facilities will be available at the base swimming pool. The annual shutdown is necessary to perform maintenance on plant equipment and the distribution system that can only be done while the systems are out of service. For more information on the shutdown call John Keizer at 982-2583.

New Housing Office hours

The McChord Housing Office has recently revised its hours of operation. Walk-in hours are now 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointment hours are 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For community housing assistance, call 982-5517, and for military housing assistance, call 982-5516.

Lost and found

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron is currently in possession of numerous items of personal property such as bicycles, keys, etc. These items were found on or near McChord and may be reclaimed by contacting the Security Forces Investigation Section, located in Bldg. 160. For more information, contact the Investigations Section at 982-5936.

Correction

In the page 10 story in the June 6 edition of the Northwest Airlifter, the 'Crews into Shape' winning team was identified as being from an incorrect squadron. The correct squadron is the 62nd Maintenance Operations Squadron. We regret the error.

